

ANTI-BORING BOOK STARTER PACK

**10 HIGH-ENGAGEMENT READS
+ PARENT SALES SCRIPTS**

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+ PARENT SALES SCRIPTS

Promise: Spark genuine interest in 7 days or less.

For: Year 3–6 kids (especially OC/selective/scholarship track) who say:

- "Books are boring."
- "I'd rather watch YouTube."
- "Reading is homework."

**This pack is designed to do one job:
Get them to enjoy one book enough that they ask, "Can we
read a bit more?"**

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PART 1

7-DAY "READING REBOOT" PLAN (FOR PARENTS)

Goal for the week:

Not "finish the book".

Just: 10–15 minutes of high-enjoyment reading each day.

Day 1 – Set the Trap, Not the Lecture

- Show your child 3–4 options from the list (don't announce "THIS IS FOR STUDY").
- Use the short trailer script (below) for 1–2 that match their interests.
- Let them choose the one that sounds least boring.

Rule: Choice = control = less resistance.

Day 2–3 – Co-Read, Don't Co-Nag

Sit next to them and say:

"Let's just do 10 minutes and see what happens. If it's boring after that, we stop."

- You read the first page or two with energy (do voices, suspense).
- Stop at a cliffhanger:

"Ooooh, that's a good spot to pause. We'll find out what happens tomorrow."

Day 4–7 – Turn It Into a Habit, Not a Fight

- Same time every day (e.g. after dinner, before shower).
- 10–15 minutes max.
- Energy > Length. Leave them wanting more.

Mini-hack:

You read the hardest bits; they read dialog or shorter paragraphs. That way they feel involved without getting exhausted.

PART 2

10 HIGH-ENGAGEMENT STARTER BOOKS

Difficulty Key (rough guide)

- ★ Easy on-ramp (reluctant / younger readers)
- ★ ★ Core primary (Year 4–6 sweet spot)
- ★ ★ ★ Stretch / more text, still engaging

Each book below includes:

- **Best for kids who...**
- **Why it hooks them**
- **Parent Sales Script** (30-second pitch)

1. Dog Man (series) – Dav Pilkey ★

Best for kids who:

Love silly humour, comics, and "don't want real books".

Why it hooks them:

- Comic style, big pictures, easy wins
- Feels like reading a graphic novel, not "school work"

Parent Sales Script:

"This isn't a 'proper book'... it's basically a crazy comic about a police dog with a human body who keeps messing things

up. Kids your age are obsessed with it. Let's just read the first 5 pages and see if it's ridiculous enough for you."

2. Diary of a Wimpy Kid (series) – Jeff Kinney ★

Best for kids who:

Like YouTube, jokes, school drama.

Why it hooks them:

- Mix of doodles + text
- Short chunks, super relatable school situations

Parent Sales Script:

"This is literally a story written like someone's secret diary about school, annoying brothers, and embarrassing moments. We can just snoop on his life for 10 minutes and laugh at all the bad decisions he makes."

3. The Bad Guys (series) – Aaron Blabey



Best for kids who:

Love cartoons, LEGO movies, "bad guys who are actually good".

Why it hooks them:

- Fast, funny, graphic-novel style
- Short chapters with constant action

Parent Sales Script:

"Imagine a wolf, a snake, a shark, and a piranha trying to prove they're actually good guys... and failing. This is like a movie script – we'll read a 'scene' or two and you tell me if it should be a movie."

4. The 13-Storey Treehouse (series) – Andy Griffiths & Terry Denton ★

Best for kids who:

Have big imaginations, love nonsense, or say they hate "serious" books.

Why it hooks them:

- Wild, ridiculous inventions every chapter
- Heaps of pictures, huge print, fast wins

Parent Sales Script:

"This treehouse has a bowling alley, a shark tank, and a machine that can do your homework. The author just keeps adding more levels and nonsense. Let's tour the treehouse for 10 minutes and rate how crazy it is out of 10."

5. The Wild Robot – Peter Brown ★★

Best for kids who:

Like robots, animals, survival stories.

Why it hooks them:

- Short, punchy chapters
- Emotional but not heavy; easy to visualise

Parent Sales Script:

"A robot wakes up alone on an island and has to figure out how to survive... with no manual. She learns from animals, storms, and mistakes. It's part game, part survival show. Let's see how she survives the first day."

6. Real Pigeons Fight Crime (series) – Andrew McDonald ★★

Best for kids who:

Enjoy silly humour, short chunks, Aussie flavour.

Why it hooks them:

- Pigeons as undercover crime-fighters

- Mix of text/comic, lots of visual gags

Parent Sales Script:

"You know those annoying pigeons in the park? In this book they're actually secret crime fighters. It's like a superhero movie, but everyone's a bird. Let's read the first mission and decide which pigeon you'd be."

7. Amulet (Graphic Novel series) – Kazu Kibuishi ★★

Best for kids who:

Love manga, anime, or action cartoons.

Why it hooks them:

- Full-colour artwork
- Fantasy adventure with serious stakes (family, danger)

Parent Sales Script:

"This one looks like an anime. A brother and sister find a magical amulet and get dragged into another world with talking animals and monsters. You don't have to imagine much – the art does the work. We just 'watch' the first chapter together."

8. Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan ★★ ★

Best for kids who:

Like mythology, heroes, and sarcastic humour.

Why it hooks them:

- First-person voice, funny and fast
- Every chapter ends on a mini-cliffhanger

Parent Sales Script:

"This kid finds out his dad is a Greek god and monsters from myths keep trying to kill him at school. It's like Avengers but with Greek gods. If the first chapter isn't cool enough, we can stop there."

9. The One and Only Ivan – Katherine Applegate ★★

Best for kids who:

Are sensitive, like animal stories, or deep feelings.

Why it hooks them:

- Narrated by a gorilla in super short chapters
- Lots of emotion but written in simple language

Parent Sales Script:

"This is told by a gorilla who lives in a shopping centre cage. He's funny and surprisingly smart. Each chapter is tiny – we can literally read 5 chapters in under 10 minutes and decide if you like his voice."

10. The Last Kids on Earth (series) – Max Brallier ★★

Best for kids who:

Like video games, zombies, and action.

Why it hooks them:

- Feels like reading a game or cartoon
- Illustrations + humour + monsters = high engagement

Parent Sales Script:

"Imagine a zombie apocalypse... but it's actually FUN. No school, just you and your best friends battling monsters and building treehouse forts. This book is basically that fantasy. Let's see how they survive Day 1."

PART 3

PARENT "SALES SCRIPT" TEMPLATES

Use these as plug-and-play phrases with any book.

1. The "Trailer, Not Lecture" Script

"I found a book that might be your style. It's about [interesting hook: zombies / secret diary / robot on an island]. We're not committing to the whole thing. Just try 10 minutes with me, and if it's boring, we ditch it. Deal?"

2. The "Choice of Two" Script

Always show two options, not one.

"Which one sounds less boring:

- This one about [short hook], or*
- This one about [short hook]?"*

We'll start with whichever you pick and test it for 10 minutes."

3. The "Cozy Ritual" Script

Make reading feel like a treat, not a punishment.

"I'm making hot chocolate / tea. Let's do a 10-minute story break on the couch, then you can go back to whatever you were doing."

4. The "Cliffhanger Stop" Trick

Stop just before the good bit.

"Okaaay we're stopping here. You'll have to wait until tomorrow to find out what happens when [X]. That's our rule – we always stop at the good bit."

This turns reading into episodic Netflix instead of "grind until finished".

5. The "No-Pressure Escape Hatch"

Give them a way out upfront → reduces resistance.

"Remember, if after 10 minutes you still hate it, we drop it and try another one from the list. I just want to find what you genuinely enjoy, not force you to read random stuff."

ANTI-BORING BOOK STARTER PACK

Promise: Spark genuine interest in 7
days or less.

Remember: The goal isn't to create a perfect reader
overnight.

It's to help them discover that some books are
actually worth their time.

Once they find that first "good" book, they'll start
looking for the next one on their own.

*"Can we read a bit more?" is the only success metric that
matters.*